FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 JULY 1985

Lebanon

A car-bomb explosion at a crossing point into Israel's security zone killed 13 people, including 2 army of southern Lebanon (ASL) soldiers, and wounded 10 others, Jerusalem radio announced. The vehicle, which was flying the flag of the International Red Cross, exploded near an ASL checkpoint at Tibnit. Citing an interview with the car-driver screened by Lebanese television after his suicide operation, Damascus radio said the "martyr" had praised Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and noted that he was a member of the Ba'th Party in Lebanon.

As for the situation in the capital, Prime Minister Rashid Karami announced in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio that implementation of the security measures for West Beirut provided for in the Damascus agreement would begin early 16 July. Voice of Lebanon radio subsequently reported a noticeable reduction in the number of gunmen on the streets of West Beirut. In the eastern sector, the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces took an "important" step by deciding to merge their military and security forces, the radio noted. A statement on the merger broadcast by the radio after a meeting between the leaders of the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces said that all Phalangist Party military and security departments would henceforth come under the command and regulations of the Lebanese Forces. The statement viewed the merger as an attempt to defuse "rumors" spread by "hostile forces" about "internal fighting," and to solve problems that could be "exploited by certain alien groups working to undermine the steadfastness of the Christian community." The Phalangist Party leader had earlier stressed the need for Christian unity in light of the Progressive Socialist Party leader's anti-Phalangist remarks on 14 July, according to the radio.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraq crushed an Iranian offensive in the northern sector 15 July, according to a military spokesman cited by INA. The spokesman said that 940 enemy soldiers were killed and thousands were wounded during the 15-hour battle. However, Iran claimed in an IRNA report that it inflicted "heavy" casualties on Iraqi forces in an attack 30 km deep inside northern Iraq.

In a separate development, Iraq reported in a military communique cited by Voice of the Masses radio that its warplanes carried out a successful raid against a "large maritime target" near Khark Island, but an "informed Iranian official" cited by IRNA said the claim was "baseless and false."

Afghanistan

A Pakistani paper, *MASHRIQ*, claimed 14 July that DRA President Babrak Karmal has either been injured or assassinated and Soviet tanks are patrolling Kabul. The paper added that a curfew was imposed on the city and all important installations were being heavily guarded by Soviet troops following bloody clashes at the presidential palace. However, Kabul radio reported 15 July that Karmal "recently" accepted credentials from the new Indian envoy to the DRA.

Meanwhile, Kabul radio continued to report successful operations against the mujahidin, contending that security forces in Baghlan and Takhar Provinces "crushed" 99 rebels in recent operations.

Pakistan

All U.S. banks, airline offices, and diplomatic missions in Pakistan have been put under strict security after bomb attacks on the Pan American Airlines office in Karachi and the American Information Center in Lahore over the weekend, according to a police spokesman in Karachi cited by Delhi radio. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the Pan Am blast, the station added.

Sudan

Police dispersed a 15 July demonstration by bank employees under the "pretext" that their action was illegal, SUNA reported. A memorandum from the demonstrators to the prime minister condemned the finance and economic planning minister for following IMF policies, the agency added.

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Pakistani Paper Claims Karmal 'Assassinated'

GF160910 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 14 Jul 85 p 1

[By a staff correspondent]

[Text] Chitral, 13 July — According to reports from Afghanistan, the puppet government's President Babrak Karmal has been assassinated and Soviet tanks are patrolling the capital city of Kabul and fighter planes are continuously flying overhead. Curfew has been imposed on the city and all important installations are being heavily guarded by Soviet troops.

Reports received tonight state that bloody clashes took place and continued for hours at the presidential palace between the guards of Prime Minister Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand and Babrak Karmal in which more than 100 Soviet-Karmal officers, soldiers, and bodyguards were killed.

Contradictory reports are being received about Karmal. One report states that he was injured in the clashes while an unconfirmed report says that he has been killed. It is being said that the new head of government will be either Asadollah Sarwari, Khwaja Nur Ahmad Nur, or Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand.

It has been reported that Soviet forces have taken away arms from Karmal's forces. Stringent security measures have been imposed on all media installations as well as Kabul radio and no one is allowed to enter. Due to the tension, Kabul broadcasts are being affected and only a few broadcasts are being carried from time to time.

Security has been tightened around Kabul city which has plunged the residents into anxiety and fear. All commercial installations have been closed and people have been confined to their homes.

Baghlan, Takhar Security Forces Crush Rebels

LD151727 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] According to a responsible official of the Baghlan Province security forces, 54 armed members of the Hezb-e Eslami band, including its deputy head Awlia Khan and some members of the Jami'at were crushed as a result of successful operations mounted in Baghlan villages.

Also as a result of another successful operation by security forces in Takhar Province, 45 armed ringleaders from various groups were crushed and 14 others, along with a variety of ammunition, medicine, and some anti-government documents, were siezed by the security forces. The report adds that during the operation, 25 criminals were seriously wounded and their hiding place were demolished in Baghlan Province.

Further Details

LD160614 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 16 Jul 85

[Text] Kabul, July 15, BAKHTAR: The smashing out of the counterrevolutionary bands are going unabated throughout Afghanistan. As a result of the successful operations carried out by the armed forces of the DRA with popular support in Baghlan Province north of the country, 54 armed members of the Hezb-e-Islami band including their deputy-head Awlia Khan along with a number of Jami'at band members were rooted out.

Meanwhile, as a result of other successful operations by the armed forces, 45 ringleaders of various bands were smashed and 14 others were captured along with various lethal weapons, medicament and anti-state leaflets, in Takhar province, north of Afghanistan.

Gandhi on Reservation Policy, Sri Lanka Talks

BK151640 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has reiterated that the constitutitional guarantee of reservation for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes [reservation of jobs and seats in educational institutions for underprivileged classes] will continue. Addressing a news conference in Madras this evening, he said the question of reservation is a state subject, and the center could only play an advisory role. Mr Gandhi said the center had consultations with several opposition leaders on evolving a national consensus on the issue. But no concrete solution has emerged so far. The prime minister said the prime situation in the country is not alarming. Though the increase was steep during the last 3 months, it was less compared to the same period last year.

Referring to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka, Mr Gandhi said there is no shift in the government stand. He reiterated that it is an internal problem of Sri Lanka. He said we are trying to create a situation for the Tamil refugees to return to Sri Lanka and live in peace. The prime minister said he was optimistic about the peace talks at Thimpu between the Sri Lanka Government and the Tamil leaders.

Regarding the seventh plan, Mr Gandhi said several states have been given remarkable assistance. He also stressed that the states should keep their expenditure within limits. Mr Gandhi also said that river waters must be treated as national assets and any issue regarding them should be settled amicably. The prime minister said this is not the right time to have any thinking on the linguistic division of states. He said the center will not interfere in the language policy adopted by the states.

Singh, Gandhi Wish Reagan Early Recovery

BK151503 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] The president, Giani Zail Singh, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, have wished Mr Reagan speedy recovery from his recent surgery. In a message to the U.S. President, they expressed relief that the operation was successful.

Bhandari To Discuss Terrorism With UK Officials

HK151432 Hong Kong AFP in English 1401 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] New Delhi, July 15 (AFP) — The activities of militant Sikhs based in Britain are to feature in talks this week between Indian Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari and British leaders, a Foreign Office spokesman said today.

Mr. Bhandari is due to leave here tomorrow for London, where he is to have talks with, among others, his British counterpart Sir Geoffrey Howe, the spokesman said. The spokesman said economic relations between India and Britain would also to be widely covered.

He added that Mr. Bhandari would also brief British leaders about Indo-Pakistan relations and Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict.

"India hopes to elicit a strong response from the British on the terrorist issue," the spokesman said, without elaborating. Indo-British relations have been adversely affected in the past year by Indian annoyance at the British authorities' failure to check the activities of militant Sikh leaders like Ganga Singh Dhillion, official sources said. Mr Dhillon has reportedly openly advocated the killing of Indian leaders by Sikh militants, and rejoiced at last year's assassination of India's former prime minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards. The Indian Government later showed its displeasure by cancelling plans to buy over 150 million dollars-worth of British helicopters for use by the Indian Oil and Natural Gas Commission, saying the aircraft were "too large and expensive." Official sources said both sides had now decided that some "misunderstandings" had to be removed, and that Indo-British relations had to be put "on an even keel."

The Foreign Office spokesman said Mr Bhandari's trip was arranged during Defence Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's visit to Britain last month.

Britain is India's fourth largest trading partner and is the industrialized West's largest investor in India.

ROK Foreign Minister To Visit 18-21 July

BK101657 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Jul 85

[Text] The foreign minister of the Republic of Korea, Mr Won-kyong Yi, is paying an official visit to India from the 18th to the 21st of this month. This was officially announced in New Delhi today.

60 Policemen Injured in Srinagar Stone Throwing

BK151612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] In Srinagar, police had to burst tear gas to disperse stone throwing mob in Bohri Kadal and Naib Kadal areas today. According to the official spokesman, the trouble started when some miscreants tried to force the closure of shops in protest against the alleged attack on the former chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, last Friday. The spokesman said that the mob resorted to stone throwing; 60 policemen were injured. The situation is now under control.

15 Survivors of Sunken Ship 'in Prison' in Pakistan

BK111251 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Jul 85

[Text] Fifteen sailors of an Indian cargo vessel are held in prison in Pakistan. According to a delayed report reaching Jungadh, these sailors were aboard the cargo ship coming from Muscat to Veraval [in Gujarat] but got sunk near Karachi on the 11th of last month. They managed to swim to the Pakistani shore where they were arrested. They are reported to be safe there.

Curfew in Karachi Areas To Be Relaxed 16 Jul

BK151741 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] The district administration in Karachi has announced that curfew in the affected areas of Karachi will be relaxed tomorrow from 0800 to 1000 in the morning and from 1600 to 1800 in the afternoon.

Students Held in Karachi, Lahore Blasts

BK160319 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Jul 85

[Text] All U.S. buildings in Pakistan have been put under strict security after Sunday's bomb attacks on the Pan American Airline office in Karachi and the American Information Center in Lahore. A police spokesman said in Karachi that all U.S. establishments like banks, airline offices, and diplomatic missions are being guarded. All airports in the country are under a security alert.

Meanwhile, about 150 suspects including Iranians, Lebanese, and Palestinian students at the Karachi University have been picked up for interrogation. No organization or individual has so far claimed responsibility for the blast.

President Supports Kashmir People's Independence

BK151032 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 16 Jul 85

[Excerpt] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said Pakistan strongly supports the cause of the Kashmiri people's struggle for independence and it would never deviate from this principled stand. He was addressing a huge public meeting in Muzaffarabad today after inaugurating the newly constructed bridge over the River Jhelum at Domial. He said Pakistan has been and will continue to make efforts for solving the Kashmir problem in an amicable manner. Pakistan felt that this problem cannot be solved through military means, but only through negotiations. Wars do not solve, but create, problems. Pakistan would, therefore, continue to make efforts for finding asolution to this problem through negotiations bilaterally in accordance withthe wishes of the Kashmiri people, or, if needed, at international level udner the UN resolution.

He assured the audience amidst loud applause that the solution of the Kashmir issue would be in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The president said the accession of Kashmir to Pakistan is indispensable, as their progress and development is interlinked.

Junejo on New Political Party, Martial Law

BK160552 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Jul 85

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has said that there is a possibility of forming a new political party after the restoration of political activity in the country, which will be supported by the elected representatives of the people. He was talking to editors of national newspapers in Rawalpindi yesterday evening. The prime minister said that although he has a personal association with the Pakistan Muslim League, as regards the new party he will consult with those who elected him as prime minister. They are the elected representatives and before making any decision on any future course of action he would have to get their support. He said he will give some positive information soon through this elected body.

On the demand of the banned MRD [Movement for the Restoration of Democracy], the prime minister said that the demand made by the MRD is related to the National Assembly, which has come into being with the support of the people. He asked how he could fulfill the demands of these people because most of the issues are related to the elected body.

Answering a question on the possibility of new conditions for registration of political parties, the prime minister expressed his opinion that these conditions will be normal and that there will not be anything extraordinary in them. Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo reiterated that martial law and civil administration will not go together. He said that certain things should be decided before martial law is lifted. He said martial law could not be prolonged and that civil government will be able to function effectively only after lifting martial law. The prime minister expressed the hope that the 30-member committee set up by the National Assembly will complete its report within a few days and send it to the secretariat. He expressed the hope that the committee set up by the Senate is also busy with this task and that it will finish its report within the stipulated time. The prime minister said as soon as the National Assembly and the Senate approve the political parties act, he will request the president to life martial law.

In reply to a question he said it is expected that the National Assembly will meet at the end of this month or in the beginning of next month. The report of that 30-member committee will then be considered.

On relations with India, the prime minister said that Pakistan cordially desires to improve its relations with India. He hoped that owing to the efforts of the United Nations, the Afghanistan problem will also be solved satisfactorily.

Referring to the government's stand on the press, the prime minister said: I believe in freedom of the press; I am ready to provide the national press with every facility to improve its performance. He expressed the hope that the press will desist from publishing sensitive issues and will adopt a (?balanced) stand. After the prime minister's meeting with the editors, a dinner was held. The federal minister for information and broadcasting, Mr Hamid Nasir Chatha, also participated in the dinner.

Recommendations of Special Committee

GF131734 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Jul 85 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, July 8: The revival of the political parties under the proposed fresh legislation in the light of the recommendations

of the Special Committee of the National Assembly, would be subjected to certain conditions which might make it impossible for a number of parties to remain functional.

Highly well informed sources told *THE MUSLIM* that the three main conditions would relate to finances, constitution and manifesto, and election of office bearers. Besides, there will be several other requirements, including strict adherence to Islamic ideology, which would be so strong that there would hardly be any need to frame a seperate law for banning a party or parties. This, it may be added, had been suggested by some rightist parties which somehow have not been able to become mass organisations. The proposed legislation would thus be more or less on the pattern suggested by these parties. Incidentally, the advocates of such a political agreement have been able to find representation in the partyless legislature. On the revival issue, there was said to be a consensus in the special committee, which had since accomplished most of its job.

Another important issue taken up by the committee was the form of government — the choice being between presidential and parliamentary. On this, the views were almost unanimous in favour of the parliamentary form of government but the possibility of a note of dissent could not be ruled out. In this context, some of the members of the committee have reportedly referred to the recommendation of the Shoora [consultative] Committee headed by Fida Mohammad Khan, now a senator, which too had favoured the parliamentary form.

On one point, however, there were no two opinions and that was the five-year term of the assembly. The members of the committee have made it clear that whatever the future political arrangement, it must ensure protection of their full term.

The Special National Assembly Committee, headed by the Minister for Interior Mohammad Aslam Khan Khattak, is required to submit its report by July 20. These sources said that the task was progressing as scheduled and the report would be ready by the deadline.

THE MUSLIM Notes Rift in PPP Ranks

GF131824 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Jul 85 p 8

[Excerpts] London, July 6: In a lengthy and hard-hitting statement issued here, PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leader and former MNA [Member of National Assembly], Mr Abdul Qayyum Butt, has lashed out against "PPP waderas" [feudal lords of Sind] associated with the Sindhi-Baluch Pashtun Front (SBPF) as well as the Sind PPP President, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, for advocating provincial autonomy based on the 1940 resolution. This is the first formal statement from the left of the PPP-in-exile on the confederation question.

Indeed, ever since the establishment of the SBPF, the PPP's left-in-exile had come under growing criticism for its silence over the issue. Qayyum Butt, a former member of the PPP's Central Committee and additional secretary general, has now broken this silence to declare that the Punjabi masses are just as exploited as the masses of the three minority provinces and that the Sindhi waderas, who created the front, are insulting both the people of Pakistan and Pakistani nationhood. Charging that the waderas, khans [NWFP feudal lords] and sardars [feudal lords] of the minority provinces had repressed their own prople and denied them their rights, Mr Butt called their new stand a ploy to hide their past sordid deeds.

In an impassioned plea to the PPP's acting chairperson, Miss Benazir Bhutto, he called on her to explain why she had remained silent over the activities of those he described as "reactionary waderas, secret supporters of martial law and Bhutto's assassins". Mr Qayyum Butt also called on progressive forces in Pakistan to unite behind the MRD and at the same time establish a country-wide people's front to mobilise workers and peasants in order to bring about structural change and not "a change of face".

Slating the front's convener, Mr Mumtaz Bhutto, for his "misleading statements", Mr Butt said that in one such statement Mr Bhutto had contended that there is no difference between federation and confederation, whereas clearly a federation is a union between provinces while a confederation is one between independent and sovereign states. "If one were to accept the confederation formula", said Mr Butt, "then it would logically follow that Sind's waderas, Sarhad's khans, Baluchistan's sardars and Punjab's generals would be the rulers, and therefore the exploiting classes would rule over four states". This, he said, would mean that all the sacrifices of Pakistan's poor and toiling masses over the last 38 years would go in vain, and they would become locked anew in an exploitative system.

Urging Benazir Bhutto to give up what he described as a "two-faced policy", Mr Butt called on her to restore progressive leaders to their party posts. "You are our respected leader", he said, but lamented that whereas "we expected you to remove waderas from party positions and bring forward Irshad Rao, Maulana Ehtramul Haq Thanvi, Masroor Ehsan and their supporters; you chose a path that progressive circles in the party disapprove of".

Assembly Members Exempted From Ban on Firearms

BK151605 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] The curfew restriction in the Qaidabad police station area of Quetta was relaxed from 0900 to 1800 in the evening today. Also, it has been officially announced in Quetta that the members of the Senate and the National and Baluchistan Assemblies have been exempted from the ban on possessing firearms in Quetta district.

Federal Cabinet Reviews Law, Order Situation

BK141612 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Jul 85

[Excerpt] The Federal Cabinet held its meeting in Rawalpindi today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. The minister for interior briefed the cabinet about the law and order situation. In this context, the cabinet took special notice of certain recent incidents which took place in Quetta and other places. The cabinet expressed deep grief over

these deplorable incidents which resulted in the loss of several precious lives.

The cabinet also considered the proposals for reorganization of the Associated Press of Pakistan [APP] to improve its financial condition and professional capability. Necessary steps for improving the APP service and the skill and competence of its staff were also discussed.

THE MUSLIM Criticizes Police for Quetta Clashes

GF131730 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Jul 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Midsummer Madness"]

[Text] The bloody Shi'a-police confrontation in Quetta will be greeted with glee at home by bigoted practioners of the faith and abroad by those who relish the spectacle of any discord in the Muslim world. The Quetta incident was not a sectarian clash. It was the unimaginative and inept response of the police to a peaceful demonstration held in support of the Jafaria school of jurisprudence. Several lives were lost unnecessarily and tragically for something which could have been totally avoided had the local administration behaved with minimal tact and good sense. Such situations have volatile possibilities with incendiary effects. It is imperative, therefore, that the government ensure that the matter does not get out of control. By independent accounts, the Quetta clash is said to have been provoked. This should be ascertained through a judicial inquiry and its findings made public to prevent repetition of similar violence.

Meanwhile, the government, given the sensitivity of the situation, should take all measures necessary to ensure that the exploitative elements at home and abroad are kept in check and not given further opportunity to gloat at any possibilities of divisiveness in Muslim ranks.

ICO Chief Comments on Israeli Nuclear Capability

BK121012 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 11 Jul 85

[Text] The ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] secretary general, Sharifuddin Pirzada, has said the question of Israel's nuclear capability will be discussed at the next summit conference of Muslim heads of state and at the Muslim foreign ministers conference. He was talking to newsmen at Islamabad Airport before his departure for Peshawar today.

He said while Pakistan was being constantly maligned by certain powers for pursuing a wholly peaceful nuclear program, no notice of Israel's capability to develop nuclear weapons was being taken. He said South Africa had also developed the capability to manufacture nuclear weapons. This is really a source of grave concern for Muslim countries. Mr Pirzada said during his talks with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo the Iran-Iraq war was discussed in detail. Various alternatives were considered, which would be placed before the Ummah Peace Committee, which meets in Jeddah in September. Mr Pirzada has now arrived in Peshawar.

U.S. TV Report on Nuclear Program Denied

BK121550 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Jul 85

[Text] Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, Ejaz A. Zim, has reiterated that Pakistan's nuclear program is for peaceful purposes and not for manufacturing weapons. He denied the American television report that Pakistan has acquired the U.S.-made krytron triggers for setting off nuclear bombs and has used them successfully in nonnuclear explosions. When asked to comment on this report telecast on Thursday, he said he does not know anything about this.

Reasons Noted for Decrease in Exports to Iran

GF130430 Karachi DAWN (Economic and Business Review) in English 8 Jul 85 p I

[Text] Karachi, July 7: A number of factors causing decline in Pakistan exports to Iran, have been identified. The export promotion bureau, quoting a report of the leader of the Pakistan general trade delegation to Iran, said that such factors include lack of direct shipping service, past violations of contracts, unfair trade practices adopted by some Pakistani exporters like short weight, sub-standard products, and absence of proper grading. Late delivery of goods, difference in samples with export products, sub-standard packing and incorrect documents were said to be some other complaints which affected exports of Pakistani products to Iran.

The report advised Pakistani exporters to make supplies of quality products according to samples and terms of contract. Satisfactory and quick settlement of genuine claims should also be considered.

It also called for making massive efforts to diversify items of trade between the two countries as it noted that efforts so far made concentrated on traditional items including textiles, tents, foodstuff and leather from Pakistan and crude oil from Iran. In this connection, regular exchange of delegations was suggested.

Iran was importing a considerably quantity of soap, sports goods, paper bags, chlorine, caustic soda, tyres and fans from other countries and it could import these items from Pakistan also, the report said.

Radio Moscow Cited on Anti-Afghan Broadcasts

GF151210 Lahore JANG in Urdu 1 Jul 85 p I

[Text] Moscow Radio report: The Soviet Union has accused Pakistan of providing facilities to the elements opposed to the Afghan regime for broadcasting propaganda against the Kabul Government.

It said the Radio Free Afghanistan broadcasts are being broadcast from PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] aircraft. Radio Moscow has accused the United States of assisting the elements opposed to the Afghan Government in their activities in Pakistan.

BANGLADESH

India's Gandhi Praises President's Relief Work

BK151211 Dhaka BSS in English 1139 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] Dhaka, July 15, BSS — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has praised President Lt. Gen. Hussain Mohammad Ershad for his untiring efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the people in recent cyclone that devastated the off-shore island.

Recalling his visit to Urishwar, one of the worst hit area which Gandhi saw, Indian prime minister in a personal letter paid a warm tribute for the efforts during the recent calamity in the off-shore islands. Indian premier said: "I feel deeply distressed whenever I recall the hundreds of sad faces which I saw in Urishwar during my visit there" immediately after the area was hit by the cyclone on May 25-26 night.

Minister Says 'Political Process' To Start 'Soon'

BK151615 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Text] The information minister, Mr Sirajul Hussain Khan, said in Dhaka today that he hopes the overseas correspondents will uphold the truth. This, he said, should be done with responsibility and due exercise of their experience. The minister was exchanging views with them. He said the present government is keen to ensure that the information media work effectively in the dissemination of news and views. Mr Khan assured them that the matters about free flow of news will be looked into.

The minister said the government sincerely desires to have a democratic system in the country with the elected representatives of the people. To that end, there have to be national elections to effect smooth and peaceful transition from martial law to constitutional rule. He said a political process will start soon and the government expects all those who have love for democracy will not disturb the process which will lead to the national elections.

Elections Early Next Year

BK151617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] In Bangladesh, presidential and parliamentary elections are to be held early next year. This was stated by information minister, Mr Sirajul Hussain, while talking to newsmen in Dhaka today. He said a decision will be taken shortly on lifting the ban on political activity.

Reportage on Chowdhury Visit to Saudi Arabia

For SPA and Riyadh coverage of the visit to Saudi Arabia by Foreign Affairs adviser Humayun Chowdhury, including his reception by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, see the Arab Peninsula section of the 15 July Middle East & Africa *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

NEPAL

Government Accused of Using Torture in Bombing Case

HK151454 Hong Kong AFP in English 1450 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] Katmandu, July 15 (AFP) — Several members of the National Panchayat (parliament) today accused the government of torturing innocent people in its efforts to find those responsible for a wave of bombings in Nepal last month that killed eight people.

The members, including Nani Mainya Dahal, Buddhi Man Tamang and Karna Prasad Haiju, demanded that the authorities stop torturing innocent people on the pretext of tracking down the culprits. They also called on the government to stop "indiscriminate arrest" of students and teachers in connection with the investigation.

Home (Interior) Minister Jog Mehar Shrestha replied that nobody arrested in connection with the bombings had been tortured. "The government does not give trouble to anyone without reason," he said.

Following the June 21 and 22 bombings 1,450 persons were arrested in Nepal. About 1,200 have since been released.

Krishna Prasad Upreti asked why the government had not yet been able to present a full account of the bombings.

Meanwhile, the Nepalese Journalists' Association has said that at least 20 journalists have been arrested since the bombings for allegedly publishing reports based on rumours or reports without foundation in fact.

SRI LANKA

Tamil Groups Propose Four Basic Principles

HK160924 Hong Kong AFP in English 0901 GMT 16 Jul

[By Neville de Silva]

[Text] Colombo, July 16 (AFP) — Tamil groups have set out four basic principles which they say are vital to Tamil interests and which they want recognised in any new proposals for ending the ethnic conflict, Tamil political sources here said.

Neelan Tiruchelvam, a spokesman for the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the main Tamil political party, said the principles were conveyed to the government delegation at peace talks in Thimpu on Friday.

The four principles are the acceptance of the Tamils as a national minority, recognition of their traditional homelands, the right to self-determination and citizenship, and the right to live in Sri Lanka for all Tamils, the source said.

The six Tamil groups at the Thimpu talks rejected a government package for an ethnic settlement and were asked to present their

own proposals to solve the conflict that has claimed at least 2,000 lives in the past decade, sources said.

The talks, which adjourned Saturday, were aimed at ending the conflict, which has brewed up around militant Tamil demands for a separatist state in Sri Lanka's north and east.

The militants allege discrimination against the country's 2.5 million Tamils by the Sinhala majority, particularly in the areas of jobs and education.

Analysts here said it would be difficult for the government to incorporate the four ideas into any new proposals it might present when the talks resume after a month-long recess. The right of self-determination and the recognition of traditional Tamil homelands, even if accepted by the government, will run into trouble from other majority Sinhala political parties and Sinhala-Buddhist organisations, they added. "The government has said any autonomy must be within the framework of a unitary constitution. The right of self-determination does not necessarily imply this," one analyst said. The acceptance of this right could well lead to federalism, he said, adding that the government and opposition parties had rejected that option as early as 30 years ago.

Analysts said that the recognition of what the Tamils view as their traditional homelands, would mean that both the northern and eastern provinces would be seen as Tamil preserves. The government and main opposition parties have already rejected a Tamil demand for the amalgamation of these two provinces into a single entity in any autonomy plan for Tamils.

The citizenship call for all Tamils refers to over 90,000 Tamils of Indian origin who have not been granted either Indian or Sri Lankan citizenship under agreements between New Delhi and Colombo. These Tamils are more recent arrivals here than the bulk of Sri Lanka's minority. They are descendants of indentured labour brought here by the then British administration to run the tea and rubber plantations begun in the 19th century. The government said at last year's abortive roundtable conference to find a solution to the ethnic issue that it was considering granting them Sri Lankan citizenship.

The Sri Lankan Government delegation to Thimpu was expected back in Colombo tonight. Group leader Harry Jayewardene is expected to brief his brother President Junius Jayewardene, who is turn will inform the cabinet tomorrow if he is sufficiently fit after a bout of influenza, informed sources said.

Khomeyni Sees University Dean, Police Chiefs

LD151736 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA — In a meeting with visiting dean of "The Free University of Iran," Dr Jassebi, here today Imam Khomeyni expressed hope that in a near future the quality of higher education in Iran would improve to such a level as to make it unnecessary for the country to send students abroad. He said education planners in Iran would be better advised to think seriously of the proposition especially because the overseas universities do not provide them with any real university schooling worthy of the name.

The Imam said for years the propaganda machinery of the foreign countries have published in support for the advantages of a foreign education mainly with the idea of luring Iranian students to those countries and send them back to Iran with a Western alien mentality and a psyche alien to the noble values.

He expressed hope that the Free University of Iran as well as other colleges and universities in the country would shortly develop into centres capable of both educating in the academic sense and purifying the spirit of learners.

In another meeting here today the imam received a group of heads of police departments, and also heads of police departments at the centres of provinces along with members of the Islamic Association of Police. Also a group of students of the officers academy, accompanied by a group of members of the ulema and head of the state police Colonel Samimi and others were present in the meeting at the Hosseiniyeh of Jamaran.

Khamene'i Condemns Western Civilization, Values

[*Editorial Report*] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1030 GMT on 14 July broadcasts an 8-minute report that begins by pointing out that the nation is today in a state of mourning on the occasion of the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Sadeq, sixth Shi'i imam, as well as the occasion of the attack on the Feyziyeh Seminary in Qom (in the late seventies, by the late shah's regime) and then mentions that President Khamene'i spoke at a commemoration ceremony at the Mahdiyeh Mosque in Tehran that was arranged by the Association of Combative Clergy and attended by many of the country's clergy and others. The station carries announcer-read excerpts from Khamene'i's remarks. Khamene'i pays tribute in general to the martyred Imam Sadeq as leading a life of political struggle in order to fulfill the aims of establishing Islamic rule. He compares the circumstances of Islam and the dispositions of Muslims during former times with the present, condemning Western values and Western civilization, saying:

"Today, the methods and civilization of the West in the world, be they under the capitalist system or that of communism, have been defeated, and the West which, having cut itself off from God, is in a state of ruin, faces even within itself some contradictions and disturbances which will ultimately drag it to destruction. This civilization which in one place formulates laws for the protection of animals, in another place destroys a city with an atomic bomb. In one place it boasts of support for the hungry of a region and poses as humanitarian and, in another place, it enters the territory of another country with impunity and drags to earth and blood the freedom-seeking cries of the people of that country. First it subjects the people of a country to bullets and then it shouts out freedom-seeking and peasant slogans. This civilization, as acknowledged even by Western scholars, is in the process of defeat and ruin."

The president adds that nations are in search of a new message and a "gift" and that this historical opportunity must be taken advantage of to advance the Islamic movement.

Khamene'i Against Increased Oil Production Quotas

LD141216 Tehran IRNA in English 1200 GMT 14 Jul 85

[Text] Tehran, July 14, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said Sunday morning that while OPEC is trying to make oil prices stable, it is wholly unacceptable that certain OPEC countries ask for an increase in their production quotas.

The president was speaking at a meeting with Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi who presented the chief executive with a report on world energy situation, the usage of coal, hydraulic and atomic energies and fluctuations in their consumption. The oil minister also briefed the president about the lowering of OPEC's production ceiling.

Ayatollah Montazeri Meets With Judiciary Officials

LD121256 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jul 85

[Text] Following the recent meeting between Grand Ayatollah Montazeri and his holiness the imam -- may his lofty shadow remain on earth for a long time -- another meeting was held last night in Grand Ayatollah Montazeri's residence between his eminence and Hojjat ol-Eslam Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni. The meeting was also attended by ayatollahs and Musavi-Ardabili, president of the State Supreme Court; Musavi-Kho'iniha, state prosecutor-general; Mohammadi-Gilani, Seyyed Ja'far Karimi, and Qazi-Khorramabadi, members of the imam's Amnesty Commission; Moqtada'i and Bojnurdi, members of the Supreme Judicial Council; the deputy minister of information; the representative of the Council for the Supervision of Prisons; and the Islamic Revolution public prosecutor of Tehran.

During this meeting, while congratulating Musavi-Kho'iniha for being chosen by the imam as the state prosecutor-general, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: We hope that the new structure of the judicial branch will bring a change in judicial matters and the implementation of Islamic justice. We also hope it will be able to eliminate many of the judicial problems. In this connection, his eminence emphasized: For this important task, greater use should be made of committed and wise individuals who are not swayed by extremist emotions.

Afterwards, issues related to prisons were discussed according to the instructions and guidelines of the leader of the revolution. It was decided to pursue the problem related to prisoners' con-

ditions with full cooperation of the imam's Amnesty Commission, the State Supreme Court of Justice, the Information Ministry, public prosecutors and officials in charge of prisons; and to take the necessary steps in this connection.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Meets Brazil's President
LD061228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jul 85

[Text] Larijani, special presidential representative heading a delegation on a visit to Brazil, delivered a message from Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to the Brazilian president yesterday. According the Central News Unit report, during the meeting current regional issues, the issue of the war, and expansion of the bilateral relations were discussed.

Later on, the special delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran met Brazil's foreign affairs minister and exchanged views on bilateral relations, the present situation in Latin America, and regional issues.

Majlis Speaker Receives Velayati, Envoys
LD121413 Tehran IRNA in English 1338 GMT 12 Jul 85

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA — The Iranian Majlis speaker, Hoj. Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani met Thursday [11 July] with Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati who presented Mr. Rafsanjani with a report on the Islamic Republic's foreign policy.

Mr. Hashemi Rafsanjani also received Thursday the adviser to the Foreign Minister Mr Larijani who recently returned from a visit to Cuba, Nicaragua and Brazil. Mr Larijani presented Hoj. Rafsanjani with a report on his Latin American visit.

In a separate meeting Thursday, Hoj. Hashemi Rafsanjani met the Iranian ambasador to the Vatican, Seyyed Hadi Khosrowshahi who briefed the Majlis speaker on the Islamic and cultural activities carried out in Europe.

Prime Minister Greets Nicaraguan Vice President
LD151326 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] In a message sent to Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez on the occasion of anniversary of that country's revolution, Prime Minister Musavi reiterated the Islamic Republic's support for the Nicaraguan people's resistance against the bullying of U.S. imperialism.

The message says in part: You are marking the victory of your revolution at a time when threats made by the world-devouring aggressors, particularly those of U.S. imperialism, against all governments and nations fighting against oppression have reached their peak. At the same time, the outstanding resistance and struggle by the oppressed nations haved opened a hopeful future before the deprived, oppressed, and the innocent people of the world.

Beirut: New Ambassador to Lebanon Approved
NC151341 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] In connection with the restoration of diplomatic relations between Lebanon and the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ahmad al-Shammat, Lebanon's charge d'affaires in Tehran, has confirmed that the Iranian Government approved the appointment of Ja'far Mu'aviyah as Lebanon's new ambassador to the Islamic Republic. This confirms that the break in relations that took place in 1983 was only a passing cloud.

IRNA: Egyptian Muslims Call for Islamic Rule
LD142047 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 14 Jul 85

[Text] Kuwait, July 14, IRNA — Thousands of Egyptian Muslims staged a standing demonstration within the walls of Al-Nur Mosque in Cairo on Friday shouting slogans in support for the enactment of Shari'a (religious laws) in place of current laws in Egypt and also for the establishment of an Islamic government in that country. Among their slogans in the mosque was "neither West nor East but the Islamic government." The mosque was sealed off by Cairo's regular and secret police throughout the demonstration.

Shaykh Hafiz Salamah, the former leader of the daily mass prayers of the mosque who was recently dismissed from his post by the government called on the people to stage a rally in Cairo next Friday. He said expressly, however, that the country's Muslim people would try all peaceful means in order to make sure that the Islamic laws are enacted in the country.

Paper Comments on Severance of Iraqi-Libyan Ties
LD091529 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 9 Jul 85

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Following Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani's successful visit to Libya and Syria and after the most important agreement signed by Iran and Libya on the formation of the Jerusalem army and the continuous fight with the regime occupying Palestine, the Ba'thist regime of Iraq severed its relations with the Government of Libya in a hasty action. *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* newspaper has an article in this connection to which we draw your attention:

The hasty action of the Ba'thist regime of Iraq in severing its relations with the government of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi is not something which can be dealt with simply by just mentioning it as an item of news. This act, considering the nature of Saddam's regime and the time it took place, should be analyzed and studied from two basic points of view. First, this act of the Ba'thists in severing their ties with the Government of Libya took place a few hours after the release of the joint 10-point communique of Iran and Libya in which the need to annihilate Israel and to form the Jerusalem army for the liberation of Palestine was stressed.

As reported in the news, the honorable speaker of the Majlis and the imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council who visited the two Muslim and friendly countries of Syria and Libya at the beginning of this month, succeeded in signing a 10-point treaty [as heard] with the Government of Libya, the main part of which pointed to the need for the annihilation of Zionism and the formation of the Jerusalem army for the liberation of Palestine.

This treaty, which was signed within a framework uniting the revolutionary forces of the region against the regime occupying Jerusalem, was officially and semi-officially attacked by all regimes which had official or semi-official and secret relations with the Tel Aviv government. Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Iraq, and Tunisia were among the regimes which condemned this unity and treaty and subjected the anti-American and anti-Zionist regime of Col al-Qadhdhafi to torrents of criticism and propaganda attacks because of it.

These governments have open or secret relations with the Zionists, but the speedy and hostile stance taken by the Iraqi regime against this unity, and that regime's hasty action in cutting its ties with Libya and expelling Libyan diplomats from Baghdad happened when, because of their knowledge of the deep animosity of the Muslim people of the region against the Zionists, the Ba'thists themselves repeatedly spread ridiculous rumors about relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Zionists all through the war. But, they themselves secretly established relations with the Zionists and, from time to time and under various pretexts, they talked about the need to recognize the Zionist regime by Arab countries. They even pressed the hands of the signatories of the enslaving Camp David accord in Cairo and in Baghdad itself. The Government of Iraq took the first steps in returning the rejected regime of Cairo to the bosom of Arab reaction and, in fact, it opened the door of Camp David to Arab reaction.

According to available statistics and information, the number of Iraqi delegations which have left for Egypt during the imposed war and which have tried to flatter the Egyptians was more than the number of delegations which have visited Libya since the Ba'thist coup d'etat of 1968. This means that the Ba'thist regime of Iraq is very much on the side of the governments which support America and very much against those governments which in any way confront American and Zionist policies. Therefore, the action of the Ba'thists in severing their ties with Libya after an important treaty such as the one signed between Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Libyan officials was not so difficult to believe or predict.

In this connection, the imam's representative issued a statement immediately after the announcement of severance of ties between Iraq and Libya addressed to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in which he mentioned the above point and added: Severance of ties between the Ba'thist regime of Iraq and Libya is in fact a futile reaction to the courageous stands taken by you and the revolutionary nation of Libya against imperialism, Zionism, and reaction in the region. No doubt, the Muslim nation of Iraq values your justice-seeking action and after ridding itself from this regime which is subservient to imperialism, it will establish deep relations with Libya because of such a courageous act.

Bourguiba's Anti-Islam Attitude Linked to U.S. Aid

LD152105 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA — The U.S. has tied continued financial assistance to Tunisia with the regime's increased suppression of Islamic activists, Islamic sources in Tunisia say. The sources say that since President Habib Bourguiba's return from the United States he has put further pressure on Muslim personalities of the country. They say that Bourguiba is expected to launch mass arrests of Muslim ulema throughout the country. Last year anti-regime demonstrations forced Bourgiba to release detained Muslim leaders.

During Tunisia's independence struggle against colonialist France, Bourguiba deftly manipulated the Quran in his rise to power in 1957. However, since then he has waged relentless war against Islamic principles.

In 1960 Bourguiba banned fasting during the month of Ramadan on the basless pretext that fasting would harm the country's economy. In 1981 he prohibited all the women staffers as well as school girls from wearing hijab. In his latest attack on Islam he said that Quranic verses were "contradictory".

Interior Minister on Registration, Elections

LD121821 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Jul 85

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Nateq-Nuri, who was making a visit to Khuzestan Province to study local problems facing governors' and district officers' offices and to meet Islamic combatants, arrived at Dezful this morning.

A report on the tour says that in an interview on the latest decisions about holding the fourth round of presidential elections, the interior minister said: After coordinating with the Council of Guardians and the subsequent announcement by the latter to hold presidential elections, candidate registration will begin on 26 Tir of this year [17 July]. He added: We hope to hold presidential elections on Friday, 25th Mordad [16 Aug] in Iran.

Elections To Be Held 16 Aug

GF160530 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Jul 85

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Interior Ministry has issued a communique announcing the date of the fourth round of presidential elections and the date for registering names of volunteers [dav talaban] for the post of president: The text of the communique follows:

In his exalted name. In accordance with Articles 114, 116, and 119 of the Constitution and the laws pertaining to the election of the president, the fourth round of presidential elections of the Islamic Republic will be held on Friday, 16 August 1985, in the country and abroad. All volunteers for the presidency can register their names and report during office hours for the completion and compilation of the questionaire for the post from tomorrow, 17 July, until 21 July, for 5 days inclusive. They should bring

along an identification card with a photograph, 4 copies of all the pages of their identification card, and 12 copies of photographs 6 inches by 4 inches taken this year, to the headquarters for the presidential elections in the Ministry of Interior situated in the Ministry of Interior building on Dr Fatemi Avenue.

Further Details

LD160941 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 16 Jul 85

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA — The Interior Ministry announced Tuesday that the fourth presidential election will be held on August 16, 1985. The announcement invited all candidates to register with the Interior Ministry at least 25 days before the election date.

Meanwhile, 'Abbas Akhoundi, deputy minister of interior for political and social affairs, said presidential elections will be absolutely free and that there are no limitations on the number of candidates for the election. He also said candidates from the Freedom Movement will be able to participate in the election. The Freedom Movement, a political party led by the first post-revolutionary prime minister Mehdi Bazargan, has been wavering lately regarding its participation in the upcoming presidential election.

He also added that after candidates register with the ministry, their qualifications will be reviewed by the Guardians' Council and the final list of eligible candidates will be announced about a week after the closing date for candidates' registration.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Disabled Iraqi POW's Released

LD151115 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Excerpt] Following a decision by the War Prisoners Affairs Commission, the Supreme Defense Council released another 55 disabled Iraqi POW's this morning unilaterally. The released POW's were then sent to Turkey. Just before their transfer to Turkey, three Iraqi POW's asked for asylum in the Islamic Republic. Their request for asylum was granted.

Our correspondent reports that from now on, on the basis of a timetable, every 2 months a number of POW's, who are ready to be released, will be transferred to Iraq with the cooperation of Turkish Red Crescent. Meanwhile, the names of these POW's will be announced by the media and their families notified, so that should the Iraqi regime refuse to take delivery, then their families would be in a position to know what had happened to them.

Three POW's Request Asylum

LD151659 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA — Three of the 55 Iraqi disabled POW's released unilaterally by the Islamic Republic of Iran Monday asked Iranian authorities for political asylum minutes before their scheduled departure from Tehran. The other 52 POW's were delivered Monday morning to Turkey's Red Crescent Society to transfer them over to Iraq.

Every two months a number of Iraqi POW's will be released unilaterally by the Islamic Republic of Iran, an official of the commission in charge of the Iraqi POW camps told IRNA Monday, adding that the decision had been taken by the commission. The official said that Iran's humanitarian action in releasing the Iraqi POW's unilaterally will be carried out through Turkey' Red Crescent Society.

The official said that Iranian authorities in studies connected to Iraqi disabled POW's have understood that some of them had had some problems with their heart or suffered from other diseases before they were forced to come to the war fronts. Despatching of these groups to the battlefronts where they were taken captive by Iranian combatants, was due to Iraq's shortage of manpower, the official said, adding that Iranian authorities will urge international organizations to put pressure on Saddam to give up his inhumane action.

The commission's official said that this time all repatriated Iraqi POW names have been publicly disclosed by the Islamic Republic in order to prevent the Iraqi regime, unlike the previous times, from hiding them from their families.

The newly repatriated POW's expressed their appreciation and thanks for Iran's hospitality and reiterated that during their stay in Iran, Iranian treatment of them was excellent.

Communique No 2,166

LD151650 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA — The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of Iran announced today that several fighter bombers of the Air Force destroyed Iraqi equipment in Qalah Hasan-Bayk in northwest Kirkuk, inside Iraq at 07:30 hours local time today (04:00 hours GMT) and returned to their bases safely.

In its military communique No. 2166 released today, the Joint Staff further said that the Islamic combatants started an offensive to capture pre-determined targets in northwestern operational regions, where they controlled the movement of Iraqi personnel and vehicles, inflicting casualties upon the enemy with direct hits from their artillery fire upon enemy logistic axes.

In the western fronts, the Iraqi activities were suppressed in Sumar front and the movement of vehicle columns and enemy troops were controlled in this front. Several bunkers, one munitions depot, two vehicles and one mortar launching pad were demolished and more than 30 Iraqis were killed or wounded in these fronts during the past 24 hours.

The infiltration of Iraqi patrol units of the positions of Islamic combatants was prevented in Nahr-Anbar, in southern operational regions, while repeated Iraqi attacks in Shahrani front were repelled the enemy sustaining casualties and losses. The gendermerie forces demolished about ten bunkers and one vehi-

cle in the southern fronts and killed or wounded several enemy troops.

Abadan and Khorramshahr were barraged by Iraq artillery fire during the preceding 24 hours as a result of which five houses were damaged in Abadan. In Khorramshahr, three houses were damaged and fire broke out in four cases, concluded the Joint Staff Command communique.

Prisoners Used As Forced Labor
LD151953 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 15 Jul 85

["Iraq Exacting Slave Labor From Political Prisoners" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., July 15, IRNA — An Iraqi Army officer revealed Monday that the Ba'thist Iraqi regime was using political prisoners for back-breaking military tasks at war fronts.

The Iraqi officer who asked to remain anonymous added that at least 10 of these prisoners were at the service of the 805th Brigade of the Iraqi Army and that they were forced to carry heavy ammunition boxes and sand sacks used in the building of Iraqi positions.

Commenting on the Qods-3 operation, during which he was captured, the Iraqi officer said that the attack was so lightning that we were unable to contact our commanders." [quotation marks as received] "The vice-commander of the brigade left the battlefront as the Islamic combatants were advancing on our position", the captured Iraqi officer added.

Piranshahr 'Repeatedly Attacked'
LD160843 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 16 Jul 85

[Text] Urumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., July 16, IRNA — Iraqi jets Monday repeatedly attacked the northwestern Iranian city of Piranshahr wounding six people, one of whom is a two-years-old child.

The aerial attacks against Piranshahr which is indicative of the Iraqi enemy's inability to face the Iranian combatants at the warfronts, started at about 1200 local time Monday (0830 GMT) and went on intermittently till 1800 hours (1430 GMT). Some damages were sustained inside the city and in villages in its outskirt. At least eight houses were set ablaze as a result of the Iraqi Attacks.

Naval Target Attack Unconfirmed
LD160854 Tehran IRNA in English 0843 GMT 16 Jul 85

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA — An Iraqi claim that a large naval target had been hit in an Iraqi aerial attack at 1325 local time (0955 GMT) Monday has not been confirmed, an informed Iranian official told IRNA Tuesday morning.

In a military communique Monday, the Iraqi regime had claimed that its planes had hit a large naval target in the Persian Gulf. "This is a baseless and false claim," the Iranian source said. Reports also indicate that the Iraqi claim of hitting a ship in the Persian Gulf has not been confirmed by international shipping and insurance sources either.

Iraqi Plane Violates Airspace
LD160944 Tehran IRNA in English 0934 GMT 16 Jul 85

[Text] Urumiyeh, West Azarbaijan Province, July 16, IRNA — One Iraqi jet violated the airspace of the northwestern city of Urumiyeh at 0730 local time Tuesday (0400 GMT). Faced with the intensive antiaircraft fire of the city's defenses the intruding Iraqi plane had to flee without being able to do anything.

Meanwhile, latest reports from the city of Piranshahr indicate that three people were martyred in Monday's Iraqi bombing of the city which continued for about six hours.

Jets Bombard Iraqi Units
LD161318 Tehran IRNA in English 1313 GMT 16 Jul 85

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA — Iranian Air Force jets in a successful sortie bombarded a concentration center of Iraq's armoured and infantry units in the northern-most sector of the fronts of the Iraqi-imposed war at 1351 local time Tuesday (1021 GMT).

More than 75 per cent of the enemy's armoured and infantry units stationed at this place were destroyed through the accurate bombing of their positions by Iranian jets. All planes which took part in this sortie returned to their base safely.